

What is Claimed is:

1. A system for handling data requests in a distributed data delivery network, the system comprising:

5 a data resource request modifier, adapted to intercept and modify a data resource request issued by a user requesting data from said network prior to said data resource request reaching a data server in said network, to create a modified data resource request; and

a data delivery device, adapted to control routing of requested data from a data server in said distributed data delivery network to said user based on said modified data resource request.
10

2. A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein:

said data resource request includes a data resource request metafile;

said data resource request modifier is adapted to modify said data resource request metafile to create a modified data resource request metafile included in said modified data resource request; and
15

said data delivery device is adapted to control routing of said requested data from said data server based on said modified data resource request metafile.

3. A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein:

said data delivery device issues a response to said user based on said modified data resource request to enable said user to receive said requested data from said data server.
20

4. A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein:

said modified data resource request includes data identifying said data server as the data server from which said requested data is to be provided to said user.
25

5. A system as claimed in claim 4, wherein:

said data server identified by said data in said modified data resource request is different from a data server identified by data in said data resource request prior to modification.
30

6. A system for handling a response to a data request in a distributed data delivery network, the system comprising:

a data response modifier, adapted to intercept and modify a data response issued by a data server in said network in response to a data resource request issued by a user requesting data from said network, before said response reaches said user, to create a modified data response; and

a data delivery device, adapted to control routing of requested data from a data server in said distributed data delivery network to said user based on said modified data response.

7. A system as claimed in claim 6, wherein:

said data response includes a data response metafile;

said data response modifier is adapted to modify said data response metafile to create a modified data response metafile included in said modified data response; and

said data delivery device is adapted to control routing of said requested data from said data server based on said modified data response metafile.

8. A system as claimed in claim 6, wherein:

said data delivery device issues said modified data response to enable said user to receive said requested data from said data server.

9. A system as claimed in claim 6, wherein:

said modified data response includes data identifying said data server as the data server from which said requested data is to be provided to said user.

10. A system as claimed in claim 9, wherein:

said data server identified by said data in said modified data response is different from a data server identified by data in said data response prior to modification.

11. A method for handling data requests in a distributed data delivery network,

the method comprising:

intercepting and modifying a data resource request issued by a user requesting data from said network prior to said data resource request reaching a data server in said network, to create a modified data resource request; and

controlling routing of requested data from a data server in said distributed data delivery network to said user based on said modified data resource request.

12. A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein:

said data resource request includes a data resource request metafile;

said data resource request modifying step includes modifying said data resource request metafile to create a modified data resource request metafile included in said modified data resource request; and

said controlling step includes controlling routing of said requested data from said data server based on said modified data resource request metafile.

13. A method as claimed in claim 11, further comprising:

issuing a response to said user based on said modified data resource request to enable said user to receive said requested data from said data server.

14. A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein:

said modified data resource request includes data identifying said data server as the data server from which said requested data is to be provided to said user.

15. A method as claimed in claim 14, wherein:

said data server identified by said data in said modified data resource request is different from a data server identified by data in said data resource request prior to modification.

16. A method for handling a response to a data request in a distributed data delivery network, the system comprising:

intercepting and modifying a data response issued by a data server in said network in response to a data resource request issued by a user requesting data from said network, before said response reaches said user, to create a modified data response; and

controlling routing of requested data from a data server in said distributed data delivery network to said user based on said modified data response.

17. A method as claimed in claim 16, wherein:

5 said data response includes a data response metafile;

said data response modifying step includes modifying said data response metafile to create a modified data response metafile included in said modified data response; and

said controlling step includes controlling routing of said requested data from said data server based on said modified data response metafile.

10

18. A method as claimed in claim 16, further comprising:

issuing said modified data response to enable said user to receive said requested data from said data server.

19. A method as claimed in claim 6, wherein:

15

said modified data response includes data identifying said data server as the data server from which said requested data is to be provided to said user.

20. A method as claimed in claim 19, wherein:

20

said data server identified by said data in said modified data response is different from a data server identified by data in said data response prior to modification.